

Fort Bliss
Army Growth and Force Structure
Realignment
Draft Environmental Impact Statement
Public Meeting **November 2009**



Agenda

- Introduction - Mr. Barrera
- Welcome - COL Wells
- Purpose and Need for the Action - COL Wells
- Alternatives and the EIS Findings - Mr. Maillet
- 30-Minute Break and Poster Session
- Comments from the Audience - Mr. Perry



Welcome

COL Leonard E. Wells

Deputy Garrison

Commander for

Transformation

Welcome

Thank you for taking the time to participate in this important National Environmental Policy Act process.

Overview:

1. Explanation of NEPA
2. Explanation of EIS process
3. Purpose and Need
4. Proposed Alternatives
5. Key Findings of Draft EIS



Purpose of Today's Meeting

Encourage Communication

- We value your input and community involvement

Provide information

- We want you to understand the GFS Draft EIS findings and learn about related growth at Fort Bliss



Structure of Today's Meeting

- Summary of the GFS Draft EIS
- Informational poster session
- Opportunity to submit oral comments



Purpose and Need



- Army is in a period of transition and has taken action to realign existing forces and increase its end strength.
- Proposed Action supports growth of the Army and allows for reasonably foreseeable future stationing actions at Fort Bliss.

Purpose and Need for Proposed Action

- Implement the Grow the Army (GTA) stationing decisions identified in the Record of Decision (ROD) for the 2007 GTA Programmatic EIS
- ROD directed the stationing of two IBCTs in addition to the 4 HBCTs directed by the Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC)





GFS Draft EIS Summary

Brian Maillet

ARCADIS Project

Manager

National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA)



- Requires a comprehensive analysis of potential direct, indirect and cumulative effects of the proposed action and each alternative
- Facilitates public and multi-agency participation in the review process

Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) Process

- Public Scoping (October 2008)
- Publish Draft EIS (October 2009)
- Publish Final EIS
- Publish Record of Decision

Fort Bliss Army Growth and Force Structure Realignment



Draft Environmental Impact Statement



October 2009



Key Issues Identified at Public Scoping Meetings

- **Land Use**

- Potential closing of Hwy 506 during military activities

- **Natural Resources**

- Grasslands and threatened and endangered species
 - Otero Mesa south of Hwy 506
 - Wildfires in Northeast McGregor Range north of Hwy 506

- **Cultural Resources**

- Archaeological surveys of controlled FTX sites

- **Air Space and Noise**

Approaches to Alternatives to Accomplish Purpose and Need

Three categories:

- Stationing and Training
- Land Use Changes
- Training Infrastructure Improvements



Category 1: Stationing and Training Alternatives

ST-1 ► **No Action** - No additional units stationed, deployment of one HBCT, one HBCT TDY training

ST-2 ► **No Deployment** - No additional units stationed, no deployment, one visiting HBCT training



Category 1: Stationing and Training Alternatives

ST-3 ► **Additional Stryker** - Adds one SBCT stationed at Fort Bliss, no deployment, one visiting HBCT training

ST-4 ► **Additional Units** - A second SBCT, one Fires Brigade, and 3 additional SBEs stationed at Fort Bliss, no deployment, two visiting HBCT training



Category 1: Stationing and Training Alternatives Population Summary

ALTERNATIVE S	UNITS			PERMANENT POPULATION			
	HBCT	IBCT	SBCT	Military	Other Personnel	Military Family	Total
ST-1	4	2	0	40,500	17,400	61,600	119,500
ST-2	4	2	0	40,500	17,400	61,600	119,500
ST-3	4	2	1	44,600	19,200	67,800	131,600
ST-4	4	2	2	51,800	22,300	78,700	152,800



Category 2: Land Use Change Alternatives

LU-1 ► **No Action**

LU-2 ► **Southeast and Northeast McGregor Range** – Allows 4 km² of fixed sites in Southeast McGregor Range and fixed sites in Sacramento Mountains North of Hwy 506

LU-3 ► **Northeast McGregor Range North of Hwy 506** LU-2, plus allows Controlled FTX, Mission Support, and Live Fire; 5 km² of Controlled FTX sites; and a Controlled FTX zone in Sacramento Mountains North of Hwy 506



Category 2: Land Use Change Alternatives

LU-4 ► **Northeast McGregor Range North of Hwy 506**

LU-3, plus allows off-road vehicle maneuvers of light-wheeled vehicles within limited areas

LU-5 ► **Otero Mesa South of Hwy 506** - LU-4, plus allows 3 km³ of Controlled FTX sites adjacent to existing roads



Category 3: Training Infrastructure Improvement Alternatives

- TI-1** ► No Action
- TI-2** ► Construction of new ranges to accommodate the stationing and training alternative
- TI-3** ► TI-2 plus range camp expansions and Contingency Operation Location
- TI-4** ► development



Water Resources

Land Use

Natural Resources

Cultural Resources

Earth Resources

Air Quality

Transportation/Traffic

Socioeconomic

Facilities/Energy

Air Space

Noise

Solid/Hazardous Waste

Legend:

- City/Town
- Interstate
- State / U.S. Highway
- Railroad
- Fort Bliss Boundary
- Training Area
- County/State Boundary
- Sacramento Mountains
- Cactus Range
- Cartonier Area
- Fort Bliss Training Complex Subdivisions
- South Training Area
- Della Area Range - North Training Area
- McGregor Range
- Tularosa Basin Portion of McGregor Range
- Southeast McGregor Range
- Northeast McGregor Range North of Hwy 536
- Olajo Mesa South of Hwy 536

Scale: 0 5 10 15 Miles

Key Findings of GFS Draft EIS

- **Stationing and Training Alternatives**

- Air space restrictions and noise will continue
- Continue coordination with airports and noise complaint hotline

- **Stationing and Training Alternative 4**

- Increased training in South Training Areas, North Training Areas, and Tularosa Basin of McGregor Range would create need to further coordinate Native American access

- **Land Use Alternatives**

- Increased military activities will reduce public access to NE McGregor

Key Findings of GFS Draft EIS

- **Training Infrastructure Improvement Alternatives**
 - Current range and range camps are not adequate for ST-3 and ST-4 (would require implementation of TI-2)
 - Rail line would involve surface disturbance and potential for soil erosion and compaction
- **Through mitigation and monitoring, majority of impacts become less than significant**
 - Communication / coordination with affected parties
 - Management plans
 - Other activities protective of the affected resource



GFS Draft EIS Summary

Steven Perry

ARCADIS Meeting

Facilitator

EIS Completion Schedule

October 30, 2009

NOA for DEIS in Federal Register

November 16-19, 2009

Public meetings

December 29, 2009

Deadline for public comments

February 12, 2010

Publish Preliminary Final EIS

March 5, 2010

Publish Final EIS

April 13, 2010

Publish Record of Decision

Closing

- **Poster Session:**
 - Project team available for specific questions
- **Public Comments:**
 - Reconvene in 30 minutes to provide your verbal comments on Draft EIS
- **December 29, 2009 is deadline for submittal of all public comments on GFS Draft EIS document**



Thank You



How To Submit Your Comments on the GFS DEIS

Comment Form



Comment forms are available in the registration area

Court Reporter



A court reporter is available here to record your oral comments now

U.S. Mail



Written comments or requests for more information should be directed to:

Mr. John F. Barrera, Proj. Mgr
Fort Bliss DPW - Env. Div.
ATTN: IMWE-BLS-PWE
B624, Pleasonton Road
Fort Bliss, TX 79916-6812

e-Mail



You may also submit your written comments to the following e-mail address:

bliss.eis@conus.army.mil

Comments are due by December 29, 2009; all comments postmarked by that date will be included in the Final EIS. Comments received after that date will be considered to the extent practicable.